

# *Semper Fidelis*

# *Trestleboard*

*May brotherly love prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us.*

## Look to the East

Doing the right thing simply because it is the right thing to do reflects true character. It means choosing honesty, kindness, and integrity even when no one is watching and when there is no reward to gain. A person's values are revealed not in easy moments, but in difficult ones—when the right choice may require sacrifice, courage, or self-discipline. Acting with integrity builds trust and strengthens both personal character and relationships with others.

Choosing what is right for the sake of goodness itself also creates a stronger and more honorable society. Small acts of fairness, compassion, and responsibility can have a powerful ripple effect. When people commit to doing what is right, they inspire others to do the same, creating communities built on respect and accountability. Moral choices made daily—whether big or small—help shape a world where justice and kindness can thrive.

There is also deep personal fulfillment in knowing you acted according to your principles. Even when the right choice is difficult or goes unnoticed, it brings peace of mind and self-respect. Rewards, praise, and recognition may come and go, but integrity remains. Doing the right thing simply because it is right reminds us that virtue is not about applause—it is about living with honor, purpose, and a clear conscience.



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## JP Ledford Master

### Officers of the Lodge 2026

|                | Master            | J.P. Ledford   |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Senior Warden  | Antonio Saenz, Jr | Junior Warden  | Jimmy Johnson     |
| Treasurer      | Earl Wilson       | Secretary      | WB Jason Caldwell |
| Senior Deacon  | Nate Bailey       | Junior Deacon  | Austin Dorschel   |
| Senior Steward | Steve Lewandowski | Junior Steward | Jeff Blackwell    |
| Chaplain       | WB Denny Norris   | Tyler          | Harry Weatherly   |

Brethren, please do not forget to take a moment, as we always do in our Lodge; to remember the sick, ailing, and those away from their families defending our way of life...and add to it our families.

## On the Secretary's Desk

Brethren,

Over the years, it has been my distinct honor to be a member of Semper Fidelis Lodge and take part in many special moments in our Lodge's history. This past St. John Day (June 24) was one of those days as we honored St. John the Baptist with a Feast at our Stated Communication. As we continue to strive towards our own individual 'Light', let us not forget to honor those traditions that set us apart from so many organizations.

As of this posting, we still have 19 Brothers who have yet to pay their dues for 2026. While this year has been busy and immensely successful, remember that we rely on these dues as a way to pay for our bills and charities. If you have any issues with this in getting this rectified, please let me know and we will see if we can get something worked out.

If you need something, please feel free to call any of your officers, because, unfortunately, if we do not know about what is happening in your life, we cannot be there for you as Brothers.

If you have any updates to your mailing address, phone number, email address, please send to: [semperfidelislodge680@gmail.com](mailto:semperfidelislodge680@gmail.com).

Jason Caldwell  
Secretary

## Upcoming Events

Brethren,

Upcoming events are in the works and if you have any ideas for our Lodge bring them up so we can all benefit from your ideas.

- 01 July—Master Mason Degree
- 06 July—National Sojourners
- 08 July—Stated Communication
- 09 July—Ritual Workshop
- 11 July—KOS 768
- 12 July—DeMolay Meeting
- 14 July—Order of the Eastern Star
- 18 July—Breakfast
- 22 July—Stated Communication
- 25 July—Ladies Night Out
- 26 July—DeMolay Meeting
- 28 July—Discussion Group



All of these events are located on the calendar online with details. Remember that we have transitioned to Grand View. Please log onto Grand View at [nc.grandview.systems](http://nc.grandview.systems).

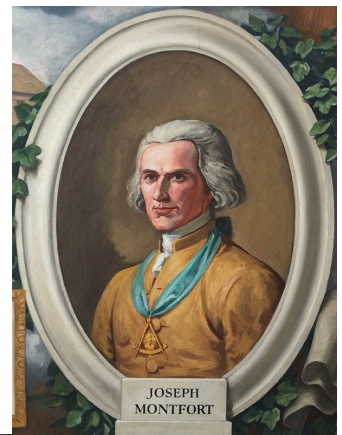
If anyone wants to help with the upcoming events, please let the Officers know.

## Did You Know?

Something to get people thinking:

Joseph Montfort was deputized by the Premier Grand Lodge as 'Grand Master of and for America.' The Grand Lodge of North Carolina has the original warrant and is available for viewing.

*"LABOUR  
WITHOUT  
STOPPING,  
DO ALL THE GOOD  
WORKS YOU CAN,  
WHILE YOU STILL  
HAVE THE TIME."*



## Random pictures of the Lodge:



Br Jason Walsh, 'Little Jason', and the Degree Team for his Master Mason Degree.

Brs George Swift and Kevin Waters and the Degree Team as they took their First Step in Masonry.



## The Wisdom of Yoda

"It is a part of the history of our country and the history of our Craft... a people who forget, or treat lightly, a great past, cannot have a great future."

## Happy Birthday Brothers

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

**07/01 CHARLES DONALD KRAPP**

07/02 RUSSELL ELTON JONES

07/04 GEORGE CHARLES FRICKE

**07/07 EDWARD RAY FLETCHER**

07/09 MICHAEL WAYNE BARTLETT

07/17 AUSTYN AVERY HARRELL

07/20 DOUGLAS ALLEN GODFREY, JR.

07/21 ROBERT HAROLD BOSLEY

**07/25 WILLIAM MICHAEL NOWELL**

07/29 PETER DENNIS BERGSTROM

07/29 JOSEPH RALPH MONTEDORO

07/31 RICHARD STANLEY BARBEE



**07/01 RICHARD CHARLES WELTON**

**07/02 MARVIN EUGENE VICKERS**

07/04 DAVID GLENN STAFFORD

07/08 RICHARD DEAN ROMANO II

07/09 ARNOLD GENE COBB, JR.

**07/18 DWIGHT MACLAUHLIN SIGMON**

07/20 SHAWN PATRICK MURPHY

07/23 KENNETH RAY FORBIS, JR.

**07/28 JAMES WALTER BATEMAN, JR.**

07/29 RANDY LEWIS BREWER

07/30 JUNIOR JASON CALDWELL

07/31 SHAWN CHRISTOPHER HUGHES

Those in **BOLD** are over the age of 70

## Necrology Report

Brethren,

As of our last report, we have not had any notifications of any Brother 'Laying down forever his working tools of life.'

Keep watching out for each other and ensure our Brothers are doing well.

Ensure your families know your wishes upon passing. Notifying the Lodge and requesting Masonic Honors (if you so desire) is vital to ensure we get things accomplished according to your wishes.



## **Masonic Education:**

### **The Symbolism of Light and Darkness in Freemasonry**

Brethren,

Let's explore a theme that lies at the heart of our Craft: light and darkness.

We encounter these concepts from the very beginning of our Masonic journey.

They aren't just poetic phrases or mere words in our rituals; they carry profound meaning, teaching us about the pursuit of knowledge, the path from ignorance to understanding, and the journey of personal growth we each undertake as Masons.

#### **Light and Darkness: Knowledge and Ignorance**

Let's begin by examining what light and darkness represent within Freemasonry.

Light, as we know, symbolizes knowledge, wisdom, and truth. It's what every Mason seeks when he first knocks on the door of Freemasonry.

Darkness, on the other hand, represents ignorance, not as an insult, but as a natural state before enlightenment.

Ignorance is simply a lack of knowledge, a state we all begin in, and that we gradually move beyond through our experiences in Masonry.

Freemasonry teaches that we are constantly moving from darkness to light.

When we speak of seeking light, we're expressing a desire for understanding, for wisdom, for a deeper sense of purpose and connection.

The darkness is not something to be ashamed of; it's a reminder of the journey we all must take, step by step, in pursuit of personal and spiritual growth.

#### **Light as Enlightenment**

In our rituals, we ask for light not just once but repeatedly.

This request for light represents the Mason's desire for enlightenment in all aspects of life. Enlightenment here means more than intellectual understanding.

It's about insight into our own nature, awareness of our strengths and weaknesses, and an understanding of our responsibilities to each other and to society.

Consider how the first time we receive light in the Lodge, it is a profound moment, symbolizing our first steps into a world of Masonic knowledge.

That moment signifies more than learning about Freemasonry; it represents our acceptance of a lifelong commitment to seek truth, both within the Lodge and in the world beyond.

Light in Freemasonry is an ongoing journey, a process rather than a destination.

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## **Masonic Education:**

### **Darkness as a Necessary Part of the Journey**

Now, it's essential to recognize that darkness is not something to be avoided or feared in Freemasonry. Instead, it's seen as a natural part of our journey. Just as we need the night to appreciate the dawn, we need our own moments of darkness, of questioning, of introspection, of searching for answers.

It's in those moments that we learn humility, patience, and resilience.

Darkness in Masonry teaches us the value of growth and progress. We learn that we are not born wise or all-knowing.

We must work to gain knowledge and understanding. The rituals remind us that every Mason begins in darkness, figuratively blind to the teachings of the Craft.

This darkness is not a flaw but an opportunity, for it allows us to emerge into the light with greater purpose and understanding.

### **Light and Darkness in Masonic Rituals**

Our rituals use light and darkness as central elements to emphasize the Masonic journey.

In the Entered Apprentice degree, we begin in literal and symbolic darkness.

This initial state signifies our lack of knowledge about the Craft, as well as our readiness to learn.

When we receive light, it marks not just our initiation but our willingness to see the world in a new way.

This "light" is the knowledge we are about to receive, and the understanding we are about to gain.

As we progress through each degree, we continue this journey. Each degree brings new light, new insights, and new lessons.

The journey from darkness to light in these rituals reflects the journey we make in our own lives as we seek to better understand ourselves and the world around us.

This is why we don't "arrive" at enlightenment all at once; it's a gradual process, each degree unveiling another layer of light, another step on the path toward self-knowledge.

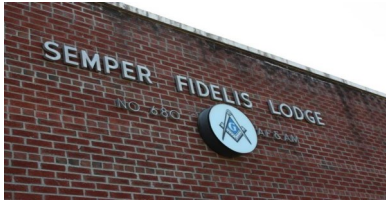
### **The Symbolic Teachings of Light and Darkness**

Freemasonry teaches us that the world itself is a mix of light and darkness, of knowledge and ignorance, of virtue and imperfection.

The balance of light and darkness reminds us to be humble in our quest for knowledge. No matter how much we may learn, there is always more to discover.

The light we seek as Masons is a constant reminder that enlightenment is never truly complete. It's an ideal we strive for, not a final destination.

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### *Semper Fidelis Lodge #680*

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## **Masonic Education Cont:**

This symbolism also teaches us to respect others' journeys. Just as we started in darkness, each person has their own path to enlightenment.

Our own journey from ignorance to understanding should make us compassionate toward others who may be at different stages of learning and growth.

The journey from darkness to light is deeply personal, yet shared by all Masons.

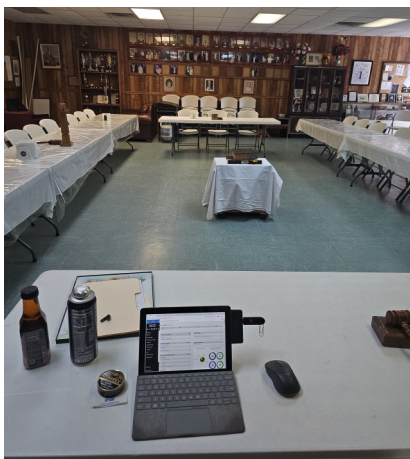
It calls us to support one another, to guide each other, and to remember that we are all part of the same universal search for truth.

### **Conclusion**

Brethren, the symbolism of light and darkness in Freemasonry is more than just ritual language.

It is a guiding philosophy that speaks to the core of who we are as Masons. Light represents our unending pursuit of knowledge, understanding, and wisdom.

Darkness reminds us of the humility required in that pursuit, the patience to recognize that enlightenment is a gradual process.



Setup for our Lodge for St.  
Johns Day Feast on 24 June.